

We need a little sanity here. We need an opportunity—not to reject everything in the rebuilding of Iraq, but we have a role to play. We will step to the plate to do our share.

But this administration has been told in no uncertain terms that this shouldn't be exclusively our obligation; that when we do some rebuilding it shouldn't be at such a fabulous level of extravagance far beyond what any American community could possibly come to Washington and ask for.

Our people deserve better. They deserve to know what is in George Bush's request. They deserve to have some up-and-down votes, and this shouldn't be rushed through in a manner that the people do not actually understand what they are buying into with an agenda such as this.

I know we are going to go to markup on this supplemental request very quickly next week. The difficulty in shoving this thing through so fast is that the American taxpayer will have no idea what was in this thing. They will be told it is \$87 billion—a huge number. Who knows what that means until you explain in some detail what you could buy with that kind of money.

I think we need to have a national debate about America's role in the world and about the level and scope of the contributions that America is making in rebuilding this country. Why has this administration failed to attract international financial support? If you cannot get their troops, why not at least some financial resources for this rebuilding? Why has that failed, as well? We need to know that.

We need to know what will follow. I assure this body, this is not the last request. This is an installment. There is much more to come, both militarily and potentially in rebuilding.

What has happened to the Iraqi oil revenue? Is there a possibility of turning some of this into loans rather than flatout grants? We are told we cannot loan the money because Iraq already has a lot of debt. Their debt is primarily to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Apparently, it appears we are going to put repaying their debts ahead of the American taxpayer, ahead of our financial needs. We are saying we have to give grants because these people have to pay off their loans to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait before they can do anything for us.

We have water projects in South Dakota. We have sewer wastewater problems. We have roads, railroads, all kinds of infrastructure that is underfunded. Those communities are being asked for matching funds. Many projects in South Dakota and across the country are done by loans. And we have a grant level at \$20.3 billion, with mind-boggling levels of expenditure, for purposes that would leave any American citizen shaking his head.

We do not want to delay anything unnecessarily. There are some urgent needs in Iraq, particularly for our

troops. We need to take care of those needs and have some certainty.

I hope in the course of this debate the American people are considering the use of their dollars, that there be considerable scrutiny and the people understand what this President wants them to buy into. If that comprehension is out there, there will be a lot of unhappiness in the land if, in fact, this Senate is unable to break out some of these expenditures; if we have to pass this up-or-down vote in one massive \$87 billion item—three times America's education budget—for purposes that would make royalty blush.

Our people deserve better. The Senate deserves an opportunity to consider these issues with much more care than is being suggested.

We will learn more, no doubt, about the details of some of the proposed expenditures from the Bush administration in the days to come. I hope we have a very real, sobering debate about the use of our constituents' money and whether this is the best use—some of it, no doubt, is; but much of it, I submit, is an outrageous abuse to the American taxpayer.

I yield the floor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I was quite moved by my colleague from South Dakota and his comments about the war, the budget and the choices that the Senate is going to have to make. I thank my colleague for discussing such specific, detailed, and passionate comments, and raising the awareness of some of the very substantial issues at stake in making such a compelling argument as to why this discussion should continue for some reasonable length of time so these issues can be aired and the American people can have a better opportunity to come to their own conclusion based on facts as the Senator outlined this morning.

I commend the Senator and thank him. Other colleagues will speak of the issues, including the international challenges that face America, as well as the domestic challenges.

LIE AND BUY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on September 18, 2003, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released its annual report on the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, also known as NICS. According to its report, approximately 136,000, or 1.7 percent, of the 7.8 million of the gun checks performed by the NICS system resulted in a denial. Since its inception, the NICS database

has prevented approximately 976,000 individuals from illegally acquiring a firearm. The report went on to note that 66 percent of the rejections were due to a felony record or outstanding warrant, and about 14 percent were rejected for a domestic violence misdemeanor conviction or restraining order.

Earlier this year, the Americans for Gun Safety Foundation released a report entitled, "The Enforcement Gap: Federal Gun Laws Ignored." The report analyzed the Justice Department's record enforcing and prosecuting gun laws. The report examined prosecution data acquired under the Freedom of Information Act from the Justice Department for fiscal years 2000 through 2002. The AGS study reveals a significant gap between the number of Federal gun crimes committed and the number of Federal prosecutions initiated.

The report found that 20 of the 22 major Federal gun laws are rarely prosecuted. The two statutes consistently enforced are laws against the use of a firearm in the commission of a Federal crime and a felon in possession of a firearm. The 20 laws that address other illegal firearm activity, including gun trafficking, firearm theft, lying on a criminal background check form, removing firearm serial numbers, and selling guns to minors are rarely enforced according to the AGS study.

The statistics in the AGS report are startling. According to AGS, in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, U.S. Attorneys filed only 578 cases against individuals who lied on the criminal background check form to purchase a firearm despite the fact that over 100,000 people were denied purchases for that reason. President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft pledged to vigorously enforce the gun laws on the books, but the AGS report seems to indicate that the Bush administration has failed to live up to the promise. I believe vigorous law enforcement is a critical step toward reducing gun violence. I urge the Justice Department to step up its efforts to prosecute not only people who commit gun crimes, but those who illegally seek to buy a gun.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN "KELLY" EARL DAVIS

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I am delighted to honor a Minnesotan who recently reached the age of 90, after having spent much of her life in dedicated service in her community. Carolyn "Kelly" Earl Davis was born on September 21, 1913, the daughter of Dr. George Earl and Lillian Earl. Growing up, Carolyn, affectionately known since childhood as "Kelly"—the name given to her by her brother, Rol—loved to play baseball. She was an all-star player whose exploits on the field were greeted with exhortations of "Slide, Kelly, slide!"